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## OUR EXPORT OF CORN.

THE average annual corn (maize) crop of the United States for the past ten years has exceeded 1,800,000,000 bushels. The average annual export for these ten years has been 53,000,000 bushels—less than three per cent. of the production. While several causes contribute to limit our export of this important crop, it is due to one cause far more than to all others combined—the ignorance of European peoples of the food value of corn. The following comparative table showing the food value of corn and other cereals was prepared by the chemical division of the Department of Agriculture, and may be accepted as correct :

	Hulled Oats.	Wheat.	Rye.	Barley.	Corn.
Water.....	6.93	10.27	8.67	6.53	10.04
Ash.....	2.15	1.84	2.09	2.89	1.52
Oil or fat .....	8.14	2.16	1.94	2.68	5.20
Digestible carbohydrates.....	67.09	71.98	74.52	72.77	70.69
Crude carbohydrates.....	1.38	1.80	1.46	3.80	2.09
Albuminoids.....	14.21	11.95	11.32	11.33	10.46

It will be seen as a food for producing energy or heat or fat, corn stands in the very front rank ; but, unfortunately, few European people know this, and yet fewer know how to prepare corn for food. Clearly the thing for us to do is to acquaint the people of breadstuffs-importing countries with the merits of corn and the proper ways of preparing it for consumption. Mr. Rusk, when Secretary of Agriculture, perceived this, and in 1890 he sent a special agent of his department to Europe, to see what should be done and could be done to increase the European consumption of corn. The work of the special agent received, generally, the hearty support of our diplomatic and consular representatives. A fair expression of their opinions of the proposed corn propaganda is found in the report to the State Department made by our Consul General at Vienna:

“ There is room in Europe for the consumption of several hundred million bushels of American corn per year, much of it as food for human beings who do not now get enough to eat. All the known preparations of corn should be prepared, put on show and distributed as samples.”

Anyone who has studied the subject will not doubt the correctness of the assertion that Europe could well consume several hundred million bushels of our corn each year, or the wisdom of the recommendation that the different ways of preparing corn for consumption and its palatability and merits as food be demonstrated to the European peoples. Secretary Rusk well understood this, and in a report on the use of corn in Europe in 1891, said : “ I wish to emphasize the necessity for vigorously following up the efforts of this department by the individual or combined efforts of parties interested in the trade of this product.” Undoubtedly the enterprise of private individuals can accomplish much, and they should co-operate with the department of agriculture ; but the national government, working through its state and agricultural departments, is the proper agency to educate Europeans in the uses and virtues of corn. It has been proposed that the money now used in the free distribution of seeds (and which is almost universally condemned) be used to increase our export of corn by acquainting food-importing peoples with the food value and merits of this cereal. This proposition has been submitted to many farmers’ meetings, and, so far as I have been able to learn, every one has given it a hearty, unanimous endorsement. The agricultural papers, without exception, I believe, favor

the abandonment of the free seed distribution as now conducted and the use of the money to increase the foreign demand for our corn. It seems that all agree that the Department of Agriculture should keep abroad special agents, persons specially fitted for the work, to show European peoples how to prepare corn for food in the ways that make it most palatable and nutritious; and to show by lectures, distributing printed matter, advertising in periodicals, distributing samples, and by actual tests when possible, the food value of this grain. The Paris Exposition will furnish such an opportunity to acquaint the European nations with corn as a food as rarely presents itself, and which should certainly be improved. The Farmers' National Congress, at its last annual meeting, appointed a committee whose work is, in part, to increase the foreign demand for corn. This committee is composed of Miss Emma C. Sickles, Secretary National Pure Food Association; Mrs. ex-Senator Palmer, Mrs. Senator Kyle, John M. Stahl, Editor of the *Farmers' Call*, and Secretary of the Farmers' National Congress and Wm. H. Liggett, Dean of the Minnesota Agricultural College. This committee proposes the establishment at the Paris exposition of a "Corn Kitchen," wherein corn shall be prepared for food in the best ways, and the prepared corn be served free to all that may care to eat it.

The increase of our export of corn is an important matter. If we exported the corn we should, the domestic price of the crop would be increased at least five cents per bushel. As the cost of production would not be increased, the added price would be clear profit, hence the profits of our corn raisers would be doubled, and likely more. In his report on the use of maize in Europe, already referred to, Secretary Rusk said:

"Could we secure an advance of even five cents per bushel on an average for corn during the ensuing decade, which might well be done and still enable us to supply the foreign demand at a price far below that of other cereal foods of equal value, the result would be to add \$1,000,000,000 to the value of this crop during that period."

That the advance of five cents per bushel in the price of corn, should European nations consume the corn they might easily take, is very moderate, will be seen when we consider that those nations are now buying our wheat in our markets at very nearly four times the price per pound that corn sells for; yet, as appears from the table herein given, corn is the equal of wheat, pound for pound, in food value. The Department of Agriculture says that "maize is fully equal in value as a food to any of the cereals, making up in its content of fat any deficiency which may be noticed in its nitrogenous matter and digestible carbohydrates." Intelligent and energetic effort ought, then, to be able to create such a foreign demand for it that, being equal in food value to wheat, pound for pound, the corn grower would get for his product at least five cents more per bushel than he gets now.

This increase would, in a very few years, amount to our present national debt. It would meet the interest charge on the present farm mortgage indebtedness of the entire country. It would more than pay every teacher in our public common schools. It is two and one-half times the value of the product of our fisheries. But secondary effects from the increased export would be even more important and beneficial. The congestion of our agricultural production would be materially relieved. Sending abroad only one-fifth of our present corn crop would bring to us \$150,000,000 every year in gold, the corn being figured at only the average farm price in gold of the past thirty years. All trouble about the exports of gold, all inquietude

about our gold reserve, all difficulty about maintaining our standing as a gold nation, would be ended. If during the past five years we had been sending abroad only fifteen per cent. of our corn crop, there would probably have been no exports of gold, for the gold that paid for our corn would have exceeded that we sent abroad; and the panic and loss and business depression and shrinkage of values and dislocation of industries, so far as they were precipitated and intensified by the exports of gold and the consequent fears for our gold reserve and doubt of our ability to keep away from a silver basis, would have been avoided. If our export of corn were increased to twenty-five per cent. of the present crop, room would be made for the production each year of from \$200,000,000 to \$250,000,000 more of corn or other farm products, and this would successfully invite workers from the city, thus relieving the congestion there, while those that came to the farms would find healthful, profitable and independent employment while increasing our agricultural production by at least \$200,000,000 per year. If to this were added the domestic production of the sugar we consume, which would each year add \$100,000,000 more to the trade and gold balance in our favor, our agricultural industries would experience such a prosperity, and on a sure, solid gold basis, as they have never known before, even in the days of unsound inflation immediately following the war; and since the solid, enduring prosperity of all other industries must rest on a prosperous husbandry, our people of all classes and in all occupations would enjoy great and real prosperity; and at the same time our national credit and honor and financial resources would, by this happy condition and the legislation it would give the people disposition to have enacted, be put far beyond the doubt that has wrought such havoc, and which will threaten disaster as long as it exists.

JOHN M. STAHL.

### THE SWEATING SYSTEM.

The great cities of our country are the centers for the manufacture of clothing under many varied conditions. The retail prices vary from figures at which it may seem impossible that anything has been paid for their manufacture, on the one side, to the extravagant prices paid by the wealthy on the other. As a necessary consequence the desire for cheap clothing of every kind has caused the competition to be so severe that hundreds, aye thousands, are working in the varied departments of the manufacture of clothing, for both men and women, at worse than starvation wages. With the high-priced goods we do not purpose to deal, for, as a rule, both the wholesale manufacturer, and the retail dealer, in these goods pay fair wages; but when we come to the wholesale manufacturers who supply what is called the general trade, varieties of practice and conflicting interests prevail. These cover the following points—the employment of middlemen or sweaters, insufficient wages, unsanitary conditions of manufacture. According to the practice in a large number of the wholesale houses, the cloth or other material for these facts apply to every kind of garment made, is cut out in the shape of the garments required, with all necessary linings, etc. These are then given out to middle men or sweaters, the amount per garment or dozens of garments paid to the middleman being often a very fair wage. The middleman, or sweater, having accepted his contract, then either makes up the garments in his own sweat shop or gives them out to families living in tenement houses. The middleman or